

A Celebration of Life & Leadership

Gathering & Welcome

Opening Words

At this time of our life, as at all times,
there is God,
our company in the questioning,
the seeker after the truth,
the passion in our indignation,
always gently, tenderly, holding us all in love.

In the silence,
in this place and before each other,
let us place this time and all our journeying
along the pathways of life and pilgrimage of faith,
into the hands of God.

A silence is kept

In faith we come, as we are,
as we have been and as we may be,
**for you are our God
and we are your people.**
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 'Our life has its seasons'

Our life has its seasons,
and God has the reasons
why spring follows winter,
and new leaves grow,
for there's a connection
with our resurrection
that flowers will bud
after frost and snow

*so there's never a time to stop believing,
there's never a time for hope to die,
there's never a time to stop loving,
these three things go on.*

There's a time to be planting,
a time to be plucking,
a time to be laughing,
a time to weep,
a time to be building,
a time to be breaking,
a time to be waking,
a time to sleep,
but there's never a time...

There's a time to be hurting,
a time to be healing,
a time to be saving
a time to spend,
a time to be grieving,
a time to be dancing,
a time for beginning,
a time to end,
but there's never a time...

Alleluia Aotearoa 113 Tune Kotuku

The people who retire this Conference

Wallis Browne
Brian Eagle
Robyn Westaway
Thelma Efford

We celebrate the life and ministry of each person...

Hymn 'Now thank we all our God'

Now thank we all our God,
 With hearts, and hands, and voices;
Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
 Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in His grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
 In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
 The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
 With Them in highest heaven:
The one, eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

*WOV 14
Martin Rinkart*

Words for Letting Go & Moving On

Loving God, caller and companion

in whom we live and move and have our being

The call to follow Christ and to grow in Christ like-ness has been both blessing and challenge.

We have learned and are still learning to share in joy and suffering.

We look back now, knowing some seed has come to harvest.

There have been times of dancing, of praise, and laughter, and times of affirmation.

And there have been mistakes made and lessons learned.

And there have been times when we have hidden our vulnerability behind excuses and much busy-ness.

Loving God, you hear our remembering.

Encourage us to explore today and each new successive day with energy, excitement, courage and faith.

Help us enter into this new beginning with the vision of the Holy Spirit to shed light and love on our future. Amen.

Blessing

Soloist Robyn Allen Goudge

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the silent stars.

Deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

Deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

Lyrics: adapted from the "Iona Blessing"

Tune: Pauatahanui by Robyn Allen Goudge

The individual tributes are available in the agenda and on the Methodist website www.methodist.org